

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 05744 021517Z

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ACTION EB-07

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TO SECDEF WASHDC

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USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 5744

FROM AMBASSADOR SILBERMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: YO US MASS

SUBJ: TURNDOWN OF TPS-32 SALE TO YUGOSLAVIA

SECDEF FOR ISA; CNO FOR OP-63

REF: SECDEF DTG 241906Z AUG 76

1. THE LONG DRAWN OUT DENIAL TO ITT GILFILLAN TO EXPORT TECH DATA ON TPS-32 RADAR TO YUGOSLAVIA COMES AS UNWELCOME SURPRISE. FROM PREVIOUS CORRESPONDENCE AND TRAFFIC WE RECOGNIZED RELEASE OF CONFIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS ON ECCM FEATURES WAS UNDER STAFFING, BUT FEEL THAT INITIAL ADVISORY OPINIONS LED YUGOSLAVS TO BELIEVE SALE WOULD BE CONSUMMATED.

2. OUR RECORDS SHOW FOLLOWING CHRONOLOGY:

A. 1 AUG 75 - REQUEST FIRST SURFACED IN LTR FROM GEN CEMALOVIC TO SECY MCLUCAS.

B. 12 NOV 75 - SECY PLUMMER'S LTR TO CEMALOVIC STATING IT WAS COMMERCIALY AVAILABLE, A NAVY ITEM AND ITT GILFILLAN HAD SUBMITTED REQUEST FOR EXPORT LICENSE.

C. JAN 76 - ITT GILFILLAN NOTIFIED YUGOSLAV MILATT IN WASH
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PAGE 02 BELGRA 05744 021517Z

DC THAT STATE (MUNITIONS CONTROL) HAD SAID US GOVT HAD

NO OBJECTION IN PRINCIPLE TO SALE OF TPS-32 AND THAT ITT WAS SEEKING AUTHORIZATION TO RELEASE CONFIDENTIAL DOCUMENT ON ECCM CAPABILITY OF THE RADAR.

D. FEB 76 - GEN LEKIC, YAF, IN LTR RESPONSE TO CLARIFICATION QUERIES BY AIRA SOUGHT ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL DATA ON TPS-32 RADAR, WITHOUT SPECIFICALLY MENTIONING ECCM CAPABILITY, ALTHOUGH IT WAS CLEAR FROM OTHER ITEMS ON THE LIST AND FROM CONTRACTOR CONTACTS THAT WAS THE SUBJECT OF INTEREST.

E. 6 APR 76 - CNO MSG CONFIRMED ITT GILFILLAN'S OFFICIAL REQUEST FOR LICENSE AND STATED THAT OSD/ISA STAFFING POSITION WITH STATE, DDR&E AND OJCS, THAT IF APPROVED WOULD PERMIT SALE OF THE RADAR WITH ECCM CAPABILITY.

F. 24 AUG 76 - DENIAL OF EXPORT LICENSE.

3. NO DOUBT THIS MAY HAVE BEEN A CLIFFHANGER WITH MANY IMPLICATIONS OBSCURED FROM THIS VANTAGE POINT. NEVERTHELESS THIS IS ANOTHER CASE IN A SERIES OF DRAWN-OUT DENIALS FOR PURCHASE OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT THAT IS COUNTERPRODUCTIVE TO OUR OVERALL GOALS IN FOSTERING A MILITARY RELATIONSHIP WITH YUGOSLAVIA. NOT ONLY ARE THE YUGOSLAVS BECOMING WARY OF ASKING FOR ANY SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT FOR FEAR OF BEING AGAIN LED DOWN THE PRIMROSE PATH TO AN EVENTUAL DENIAL, BUT THEY SERIOUSLY SUSPECT OUR PROFESSED INTENT TO OFFER USG AS AN ALTERNATIVE SOURCE OF SUPPLY FOR SELECTED MILITARY EQUIPMENT.

4. IF WE DESIRE TO CONTINUE TO SELL ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO THE YUGOSLAVS, BELIEVE WE MUST HAVE A CONTINUING DIALOGUE WITH RESPONSES ACHIEVED AS SOON AS IS FEASIBLE. THEY HAVE SAID THEY PREFER A QUICK NO TO A LONG DELAYED MAYBE OR YES. NOTWITHSTANDING GOY DILATORINESS AND BUREAUCRATIC INEPTNESS IN THESE MATTERS, THEY ARE RIGHT ON THIS POINT. BEYOND THIS, THERE IS ALSO THE BROADER CONSIDERATION OF WHAT THE LIMITATIONS OF OUR DISCLOSURE POLICY ARE, AND THE DEGREE OF SOPHISTICATION OF EQUIPMENT USG IS WILLING TO RELEASE TO THE YUGOSLAVS AT THIS TIME.

SILBERMAN

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